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## CHAPTER 3

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

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#### RECREATION

Waldoboro provides only a very limited recreation program under the general direction of the Recreation Committee. This program consists of essentially a five-week summer recreational program (games, sports, swimming, and arts and crafts) for children entering grades one through six. The program usually operates from the A.D. Gray Junior High School from the first week of July through the second week of August each year.

This following is a summary of the Town's recreation facilities:

**Marine Park.** Marine Park is located 6.5 miles south of U.S. Route 1 near the lower end of Dutch Neck Road. It was purchased by the Town in 1965 and includes 20 acres of land and approximately 100 feet of frontage on the Medomak River. The facility includes a paved boat launching ramp 235 feet in length with a travel surface 20 feet wide, as well as a parking area.

**Medomak River Rest Area.** The Medomak River Rest Area is located on the east side of Route 32 near U.S. Route 1. It was acquired by the Town from the State of Maine to prevent the Maine Department of Transportation from discontinuing its use as a rest area. The .65 acre picnic site includes five picnic tables, four litter barrels, and 150 feet of two-rail fence. In 1994, the Town accepted a gift of land consisting of .25 acres adjacent to the Park from the Soule-Shuman Post #4525.

**Memorial Park.** Memorial Park is a .5 acre lot located at the intersection of Pine Street and Main Street. It contains a war memorial, erected through donations of the Waldoboro Club of Boston in the 1930's. A new flag pole donated by the Charles C. Lilly Post #149 in 1996.

**Philbrook Athletic Field.** Philbrook Athletic Field is a Town-owned ballfield, located on a 4.2 acre site near the A.D. Gray Junior High School at the north end of Philbrook Lane. The field is open and available to the public and is used extensively by local ball teams and the Junior High School. The facility includes ballfields, a 700-foot galvanized chain link fence, and new bleachers which were installed by the School District in 1993.

**Public Landing.** The Public Landing is a 1.85 acre site located on Pine Street which was purchased by the Town in 1968 for use as a public landing. The facility includes a bulkhead which was replaced in 1987-88, as well as a parking lot and launching ramp which were repaved in 1996. The landing has been landscaped and maintained by the Waldoboro Garden Club.

**Tennis Courts.** The Town owns two tennis courts which are located on an acre of land behind A.D. Gray Junior High School which the Town purchased in 1974. The two courts are enclosed by a 10-foot chain link fence. The asphalt courts were repainted in 1990 and 1996.

**Town Forest.** The Town Forest is located on Benner Hill diagonally between Route 32 south and U.S. Route 1. The site, which was acquired by the Town through automatic foreclosure of a tax collector's lien, consists of 63.5 acres. In 1968, the Town voted to designate the parcel as a Town

Forest, to be devoted to the culture of trees. In 1982, the Waldoboro Conservation Commission completed a "Waldoboro Town Forest Plan" and during that same year, the Selectmen authorized the Commission to undertake timber stand improvements. Subsequent stand improvements were undertaken annually between 1984 and 1989. In 1984, a seven acre old-growth hemlock stand was registered with the Maine Critical Areas Program. The trees in this stand range in age between 110 and 240 years.

**Miller School Site.** In 1996, the Town voted to acquire three parcels of land adjacent to Miller School for the future growth and development of the Town. The purchases, which were in addition to a gift of 9.29 acres, were approved with the understanding that no development of the sites would occur until a master plan is developed and approved by the Town. All of the properties contain a restriction against being developed as a commercial or industrial park. The parcels acquired from Annette Brooks (9.02 acres plus a gift of 9.29 acres) are subject to this restriction. The site acquired from Betho Davis (1.52 acres) is subject to the additional restriction that the property not be used for construction of a municipal garage. The parcel acquired from Robert Foster is subject to the restriction that the property not be used for residential purposes.

**Friendship Street School.** The Friendship Street School, a Town-owned community center, is located on a 2.3 acre lot on Friendship Street in Waldoboro. Originally built in 1857, it was turned over to the Town in 1987 following its discontinuance as a classroom facility. The property fronts on both Friendship Street and the Medomak River. The building is a 3-story, brick structure containing five rooms with a total of 5,590 square feet.

Recent capital improvements include a new roof (1981-82), re-pointed brick, a new furnace, removal of asbestos from boiler and classroom basement (1989), removal of underground fuel tanks and installation of two storage tanks in the basement, a handicap access ramp (1995) and new windows (1996).

Based on a 1989 vote of the Town of Waldoboro, the Board of Selectmen appoint a nine-member board to operate, manage, maintain and control the use of the building and lands. The Board, with the help of volunteers, has made the building more attractive, and is continuing to make improvements to the facility. Two classrooms are leased to Coastal Economic Development for a Head Start program, and the remainder of the building is available for community use.

## **Needs.**

- 1. Tennis Court.** There is a need to replace the court as the pavement is beginning to deteriorate. Also lights should be added.
- 2. Town Forest.** There is a need to preserve the seven acre old growth timber stand in its present state for public enjoyment, and have signs marking the trails.
- 3. Land Adjacent to Miller School.** There is a need to develop a master plan for the future use of this property.
- 4. Master Recreation Plan.** There is a need for preparing a master recreation plan that would identify Town-wide recreation needs, the extent to which existing facilities address those needs, and the extent to which new facilities should be developed.
- 5. Friendship Street School.** The two street-level floors, as well as the basement floor, need

sanding and refinishing or possibly replacement.

## **WALDOBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Management.** The Board of Trustees of the Waldoboro Public Library Association has managed the library for over 80 years. The board is responsible for budgeting, investing endowment and building funds, fund raising and promotion of programs, building repairs, equipment purchases, payroll records and taxes, annual Federal and State tax returns for non-profit corporations, paying all bills, and taking care of building and liability insurance as well as Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

The volunteer members of the board meet each month. The officers of the board put in many hours to keep the library operating.

**Library Building.** The Waldoboro Public Library has been housed in the old Custom House for over 30 years. The building is located in the center of the village and has been in the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. On October 3, 1962, the Library Association signed a 20-year warranty deed with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and agreed to "see to the upkeep and to the use for educational purposes of this historic building and to be responsible in its stewardship to those ends." The Waldoboro Public Library Association has owned the building outright since 1982 when the deed conditions terminated.

The Library Board, cognizant of the citizen support for the present location of the library, has over the years redesigned the interior spaces of the building in order to improve access to the building and the collection. A small office was created and three new double-faced book stacks were made by the high school students. Parking problems have been eased since the Waldoboro Bank, F.S.B., donated its former parking lots to the library. Residents with physical restrictions now have a special parking space at the side ramp which greatly improves their access to the building. However, much of the interior of the building is not accessible to patrons, and they must rely upon assistance from staff. The toilet facilities are on the second floor and are not accessible to all. The entire non-fiction collection and the children's collection are housed on the second floor.

In 1989, the Library Board began exploring the possibility of expanding the library building to the north on privately owned land. The expansion plan was abandoned when over 270 townspeople signed a petition asking that no changes be made to the building or the grounds of the library.

Because of serious space limitation, the library board is searching for land as close to the present library as possible on which to build a larger facility. A survey of patrons revealed that a large majority were favorable to a new library, within a one-mile radius of the present building, if possible. Waldoboro does not have many vacant parcels of property left within that radius, so the board feels that property should be purchased before it is all developed for other uses. The library board anticipates that it will be a number of years before funds for a new building can be raised.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all new buildings or additions to existing buildings be accessible to all people. Libraries have specific requirements in addition to the minimum requirements of the Act. These requirements would have to be met when a new library is built.

**Staffing/Hours.** There are presently three part-time employees plus a part-time custodian. The library is open 32 hours per week, 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM on Mondays, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9:30 AM until 12:00 noon Saturdays. The library is closed on Tuesdays and Sundays.

## **Programs and Services**

1. **Information Center.** The role of the library in the community has gone beyond being only a recreational resource. The library is primarily an information center. The library is making use of technology to store, analyze, and transmit information needed by the library and by government decision makers. The computers are connected to the Internet, and the library has a Home Page which can be accessed from homes and schools as well as in the library. It is the library's mission to provide every person, regardless of income, with access to the library and its information services. That access includes electrically transmitted as well as print information.

The Waldoboro Library's computerized Bulletin Board Service (BBS) was begun in 1993 by volunteers and is still operated and maintained by volunteers. The library was a pioneer in introducing a BBS to a small town library. This service is gradually being replaced by the Internet at the library and the BBS of MSAD 40.

2. **Story Hours.** The library provides story hours for pre-school children and for children in the Head Start program. These programs are staffed by volunteers who give freely of their time.
3. **Summer Reading Program.** The Summer Reading Program uses the American Library Association's material as do many of the libraries across the country. These programs are well attended and have developed many enthusiastic young readers.
4. **Newsletter.** The Board of Trustees publishes a newsletter twice a year. The articles are written by the trustees, the librarians and other volunteers. The layout and design of the publication is done by volunteers as is the preparation of the mailings.
5. **Borrowing Consortium.** The Waldoboro Library is a member of the Midcoast Cooperative Borrowing Consortium. This group is made up of the libraries in Waldoboro, Bath, Wiscasset, Damariscotta, Topsham, Boothbay Harbor and Bristol. These libraries provide borrowing privileges to people with current library cards from one of the above libraries.
6. **Maine State Library.** The Waldoboro Library is part of the Central Library District of the Maine State Library and has access to assistance from the State Library. The State Library furnishes the computerized list of available books which make up MaineCat, a statewide list. These books are available to the community through the Interlibrary Loan Service and are accessed through the library computers or at home by people with computers and modems. Volunteers have developed and maintained this system for Waldoboro.
7. **Automated Card Catalog.** The library has an automated card catalog and circulation system. The program was given to the library by an anonymous donor.

**Circulation/Collection.** Between 1987 and 1997, the number increased from 850 to 2,247. The library's collection has grown from 15,640 books in 1987 to 18,309 in January of 1996. The library now carries 78 periodicals and five newspapers. The video collection of 132 tapes is a combination of adult fiction, children's fiction, "How To," travel and gardening videos. There is no more space for additional books, so the collection is weeded in order to make room for current publications.

These weeded books make up a large part of the book sales which are run by the trustees and volunteers each year.

**Expenses.** The operating expenses have increased from \$17,413 in 1987 (of which \$9,850 came from the Town) to \$49,737 in FY 1995-96 (with \$34,817 coming from the Town). The library has three part-time staff members and a part-time custodian, providing 1 2/3 full-time equivalents. Volunteers put in 1,500 hours in 1995. The acquisitions budget has increased \$2,300 for books in 1987, to \$7,885 in 1997 for books, audios, videos, periodicals, computer software and reference materials. Several patrons regularly donate many books each year. The average cost of an adult book is \$23, and children's books average about \$15.

**Comparison with Other Libraries.** Table 3-1 contains statistics which were compiled by the State Library and are based on FY 1993-94. The 12 towns used collectively for comparison purposes are Bridgton, Bucksport, Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, Fort Kent, Madison, New Gloucester, Norway, Paris, Pittsfield, Poland and Wilton.

**Table 3-1**

**COMPARISON WITH OTHER LIBRARIES**

|                                     | <b>Average of<br/>12 Towns</b> | <b>Waldoboro</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Collection                          | 22,082                         | 17,936           |
| Circulation                         | 31,302                         | 18,514           |
| Per Capita Circulation              | 7.02                           | 4.02             |
| Staff Expenditures                  | \$34,092                       | \$27,617         |
| Book Expenditures                   | \$8,339                        | \$6,794          |
| Municipal Appropriation             | \$37,503                       | \$27,956         |
| Per Capita Municipal Appropriation  | \$8.49                         | \$6.03           |
| Total Operating Expenses            | \$52,975                       | \$43,293         |
| Per Capita Total Operating Expenses | \$11.95                        | \$9.41           |

Needs.

- 1. New Library.** There is a need for a new library to provide room for growth and the operation of the library's various programs
- 2. Transfer of Responsibility to Town.** The Board of Trustees of the Waldoboro Public Library Association have concluded that the library should become a Town department with staff salaries and benefits comparable to those of municipal and school employees with comparable responsibilities and training. The Trustees feel that employee policies, capital projects and the running of the physical plant as well as approval of the annual operating and capital budgets should be the responsibility of the Town of Waldoboro. Table 3-2 provides a municipal staffing comparison of various libraries throughout the state in communities that range in size from 5,171 people to 6,441 people, which is within Waldoboro's likely growth range over the next ten years.



**Table 3-2**

**SUMMARY OF LIBRARY STAFF LEVELS  
WALDOBORO AND LARGER COMPARISON COMMUNITIES**

|                                     | Waldoboro | Berwick | Buxton | Cumberland | Jay   | Lincoln | Oakland | South Berwick | Winthrop |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------------|----------|
| Population - 1990                   | 4,749     | 6,186   | 6,441  | 5,970      | 5,171 | 5,732   | 5,762   | 6,201         | 6,095    |
| Librarians - number/hours           | -         | -       | -      | 1/35       | -     | 1/40    | 1/24    | 1/30          | 1/32     |
| Assistant Librarian - number/hours  | -         | -       | -      | 1/35       | -     | -       | 1/23    | -             | 1/32     |
| Children's Librarian - number/hours | -         | -       | -      | 1/35       | -     | 1/40    | -       | 1/10          | 1/24     |
| Library Aid - number/hours          | -         | -       | -      | -          | -     | -       | 1/8     | 1/16          | 6/8      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | -         | -       | -      | 3/105      | -     | 2/80    | 3/55    | 3/56          | 9/136    |

Source: "1996 MMA Salary Survey," Maine Municipal Association, 1996.

